

Tai Laing language

Tai Laing, pronounced **Tai Lai** or regionally *Tai Nai*, is a Tai language of Burma, related to Khamti. It has its own script, and, though not taught in schools, is experiencing a cultural revival, albeit still small. There is no census of speakers, but they are estimated to number around 100,000.

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Names

Alternate names for Tai Laing are Red Tai, Shan Bamar, Shan Kalee, Shan Ni, Tai Laeng, Tai Lai, Tai Lang, Tai Nai, and Tai Naing (*Ethnologue*).

Distribution

Tai Laing is spoken in Homalin Township, Sagaing Region, along the Chindwin, Irrawaddy, and Uru rivers. It is also spoken in Kachin State from Bhamo to Myitkyina townships (*Ethnologue*).

Dialects

There are two subgroups of Tai Laing, namely **Tai Nai** and **Tai Lai**. The Tai Nai live along the railway line between Myitkyina and Mandalay. The Tai Lai live along the river south of Myitkyina (*Ethnologue*).

References

1.

Tai Laing (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tjl/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2.

Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Tai Laing" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tail1248>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

Tai Laing	
Tai Lai	
<i>Tai Nai</i>	
Native to	Burma
Region	Kengtung, Myitkyina
Native speakers	100,000 (2010) ^[1]
Language family	Kra–Dai <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tai<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southwestern (Thai)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northwestern<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tai Laing
Writing system	Burmese script (historical)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	tjl
Glottolog	tail1248 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tail1248) ^[2]

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